

## The Squash Bug

The squash bug is brownish-black in color and is about two-thirds of an inch long and about one-third inch wide. This insect is a common pest of pumpkins and squashes and may at times do serious damage to melons and cucumbers.

The adults hibernate under rubbish and boards about gardens and fields, where squashes and similar plants were grown. The eggs are laid upon the underside of the leaves of the growing food plants. At first the eggs are whitish, later yellowish, and finally turning dark.

The young are red in color, but soon change to black, and are found clustered together feeding on the underside of the leaves. They live by sucking the juices from the leaves. This loss of sap stunts the leaves, preventing their full development; and when the attack is severe will destroy the crop.

**CONTROL:** No satisfactory control measures have ever been discovered.

Handpicking of eggs and nymphs is the best control in small gardens. In larger plantings, spraying with the nicotine sulphate sold under such trade names as Black Leaf 40, 1 to 400, in water to which enough soap has been added to make a good suds, will kill the nymphs. The adults cannot be reached by spraying and are best controlled by trapping under pieces of boards or shingles placed about the garden. The bugs will gather on the underside of these for the night, and should be destroyed in the morning by scraping into a pail containing water covered with kerosene.

In the fall crop remnants should be carefully gathered and destroyed thus doing away with the hibernating quarters of the insect, and giving natural enemies a better chance to destroy the bugs.

